

Melanie Renée Roll
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EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts, *Visual Communication Design*
Kent State University, 2022
Thesis: *Are You Experienced: A Speculative Experiment in UXD Testing Sites*

Master of Arts, *Art History*
Kent State University, 2014
Thesis: *Performing the Image: The Tableaux of Vanessa Beecroft*

Master of Library and Information Science
Kent State University, 2003
Thesis Practicum: Image Library, Cleveland Museum of Art.

Bachelor of Fine Arts, *Jewelry, Metals & Enameling*
Kent State University, 2004
Thesis: *Before and After: Models of Objectification*

Bachelor of Science, *Fashion Merchandising*
Kent State University, 1984

CURRENT RESEARCH

I am an interdisciplinary scholar working at the intersection of design, craft, material studies, and its convergence with art history and critical theory in the field of visual culture. My current research investigates the relationship between critical making, hierarchical relationships in contemporary art, craft, and design and production of meaning through media affiliated with all genres of visual production—both academic and mainstream. An additional trajectory of this research includes investigation of the role or identity of artist or maker within global society, and how creative practice is valued or understood within diverse cultures.

As a metalsmith and designer my work investigates how the body, text, and object collide to investigate notions of self-awareness, human interface, display, and value. Modes of adornment, status, and archival presentation all parlay into interesting juxtapositions and relationships between object, maker, and wearer. These adjacencies work to create acute and personal memories which provide substantive territory for understanding human relationships and the objects which operate at the convergence of these boundaries.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Kent State University

2006-present

Art Survey/Art as a World Phenomenon

Undergraduate

Course Description:

This course explores the essential qualities of visual art and the motivations for creating art in both Western and non-Western cultures through a thematic paradigm. By the end of the term the student will have developed an enhanced ability to identify and describe various media and styles of artistic production, and have a basic knowledge of culturally significant periods and representative artworks in the history of global art.

Art History: Ancient to Medieval Art

Undergraduate

Course Description:

Using a chronological approach, this course examines the history of the visual arts from the earliest prehistoric examples through the global and western traditions in ancient civilizations and ending in the Late Middle Ages (ca. 1350 CE). Through recognition of the principal themes, subjects, and symbols in visual art in a variety of cultures and periods, the student will learn to apply critical thinking and creative inquiry to traditional art historical interpretations.

Research and Writing in Art History

Undergraduate

Course Description:

This course focuses on improving skills in writing about the visual arts, with the goal of introduction will expose the student to a wide variety of library resources—both print and electronic—for researching art. In concordance, the course will introduce new strategies and theories being deployed in contemporary critical discourse of global visual culture. Several written assignments and one research paper are required, with a presentation of research at the conclusion of the course. In addition, participation in seminar-style class discussions is mandatory.

Art History Research Methods and Resources

Graduate

Course Description:

This graduate-level course focuses on advanced research techniques necessary to develop a distinctive thesis proposal leading to a successful defense. The seminar-style course introduces a variety of traditional and contemporary critical methodologies and frameworks used in art history and visual culture research. Weekly written responses to readings and student presentations facilitate robust conversation on each student's research topic and result in a thorough investigation of possible research strategies prior to the submission of the thesis proposal. A comprehensive bibliography on a research topic is required and a final presentation of the thesis topic is presented by each student.

Contemporary Craft: History and Theory

Undergraduate and Graduate

Course Description:

This course provides an overview of the history, theory, and practice of modern and contemporary studio craft. By the end of the term, the student will have developed an enhanced ability to identify and describe various media and styles of artistic production normally associated with “craft” genres: ceramics, textiles/fibers, jewelry/metals/enamels, glass, and wood/furniture. The student will become familiar with important makers, theorists, and venues in the craft movement. Concurrently, the student will build a basic knowledge of the philosophies, pedagogical styles, and controversial issues which have shaped this unique cultural and artistic tradition.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant to the Director

Kent State University, School of Art

Kent, OH

Responsibilities include:

7/2014-present

Coordinate with faculty and division coordinators to develop semester schedules and make associated hiring decisions. In concordance, identify problems in student roadmaps and prerequisites, gaps in sequential course offerings, and advise on general use of adjunct payroll to best serve the needs of the School of Art and commensurate financial directives.

Coordinate with faculty on all curriculum changes and workflows submitted for the School of Art. This process includes planning for and alignment of curriculum with accreditation requirements, initial review of all workflows, and coordination of all changes through committee. This process also involves synchronizing curriculum related information on the School of Art website with the university catalog and all recruiting materials.

Provide administrative advice on and assistance in matters of the school as needed, especially in areas of budget, publicity, and media. Coordinate with faculty and staff to facilitate equitable and safe use of facilities, especially shared studios, classrooms, and student workspaces.

Coordinate submission and review of materials from various School of Art faculty and administration for national accreditation reviews and university assessments. Collection and archiving of student artwork and research in concordance with required policy to demonstrate achieved accreditation competencies.

Visual Resource Center Coordinator

Kent State University, School of Art, Digitization Project

Kent, OH,

Responsibilities include:

2006-2023

Oversee equipment, staffing, and coordinated services provided in the Visual Resource Center, which serves students, faculty and staff in the School of Art. The center provides scanning, printing, computing services, along with a photography studio for general use. Students use the center as part of required coursework, but may use the center for a variety of research and creative projects. Advise and generate procedures for the School of Art as related to intellectual property issues, use of images by students in these and other school projects, and general use of third-party materials by faculty and student in coordination with existing university policy.

RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Publications

“Critical Making: A Micro-Study in Archival Practice” *Spring 2020*
Art Documentation, University of Chicago Press
Invited to submit, based on conference presentation: peer-reviewed

Conference Presentations

CAA Annual Conference *February 2019*
Late 20th Century Jewelry Rags: Design/Content/Meaning *New York, NY*

VRA 2017 Unbridled Opportunities, Louisville, Kentucky *March 2017*
Establishing a Brand for the 21st Century Visual Resource Center *Louisville, Kentucky*
Kent State University

Professional Development

Office of Continuing Education and Distance Learning—
Online Teaching Orientation and Refresher *Summer 2022*

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Mini-Course Design Institute *Fall 2021*
Nominated and completed

Center for Teaching and Learning Faculty Anti-Bias Workshops *Summer 2021*
Completed the five-part training

Midwest Art History Society Conference *Spring 2021*
Attended Sessions on Contemporary Art

Society of Experiential Graphic Designers (SEGD) *Summer 2020*
Attended Summer Academic Summit

E² Education Elevated, Kent Ohio *November 2018*

Improving your Online Course Workshop *April 2018*

Center for Teaching and Learning, Working Lunch: *Navigating Difficult* *December 2017*
Conversations and Controversial Subjects

Third Annual Online Learning Symposium, Kent Ohio *November 2016*

MACAA 2016 Studio Shift, Cincinnati Ohio *October 2016*

Applying the QM Rubric *Fall 2012*
Quality Matters Training Seminar

Grants

University Teaching Council Mini Grant for Educational Technology \$ 200 to support upgrade to Zoom account	Fall 2020
Kent State Foundation Grant \$25,000 to support technology upgrade Art History classrooms	Spring 2011

EXHIBITIONS

<i>Are You Experienced: A Speculative Experiment in UXD Testing Sites</i> Crawford Gallery, School of Art MFA Thesis Show	2021 Kent, Ohio
<i>KSU School of Art Biennial Faculty Show</i> School of Art Gallery	2020 Kent, Ohio
<i>KSU School of Art Biennial Faculty Show</i> School of Art Gallery	2018 Kent, Ohio
<i>Design Is...</i> School of Visual Communication Design Gallery	2018 Kent, Ohio
<i>KSU Jewelry/Metals Invitational</i> Kent State University School of Art Gallery Curated Exhibition	2005 Kent, Ohio
<i>Before and After: Models of Objectification</i> Gallery 138 B.F.A. Thesis Show	2004 Kent, Ohio
<i>SNAG 2004: Metals-A-Go-Go</i> Florida International Museum Juried Student Exhibition	2004 St. Petersburg, Florida
2003_armwork Robert E. & Martha Hull Lee Gallery Miami University Juried Student Exhibition	2003 Oxford, Ohio
<i>SNAG 2003: Making It In Metal</i> California College of Arts and Crafts Juried Student Slide Presentation	2003 San Francisco, CA

<i>Student Annual Exhibition</i> School of Art Gallery Student Juried Exhibition	2002 Kent, Ohio
<i>Clay and Metals/Jewelry Invitational</i> SMSU Student Exhibition Center Southwest Missouri State University	2001 Springfield, MS

SERVICE

Committees and Community Outreach

Revisoning the Kent Core—Design Subcommittee	2022-2024
University Requirements Curriculum Committee College of the Arts Faculty Representative Faculty Co-Chair	2022-2023
Academic Affairs Strategic Planning Enhancing Academic Excellence and Innovation Committee Co-Chair	2022-2023
University Council on Technology (alternate)	2021-2022
Academic Affairs Strategic Planning Enhancing Academic Excellence and Innovation Committee	2021-2022
Ohio Transfer 36 Faculty Review Panel: Arts and Humanities Substitute-Fall 2021, Alternate-Spring 2022	2021-2022
Flashbooks Steering Committee	2019-2022
Liaison to the Cleveland Museum of Art Development of Student Internship Opportunities	2019-2022
School of Art Undergraduate & Graduate Curriculum Committee	2018-2022
University Requirements Curriculum Committee College of the Arts Faculty Representative	2018-2022
School of Art Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, chair	2016-2018

Student Thesis Supervision

Madeline May *Spring 2021*
MA Thesis
The Passion of Plague:
Art and Literature and the Representation of Suffering and Salvation
Committee Appointment and Second Reader

Maria Kuhn *Spring 2021*
MA Thesis
Mother Mary Comes to Me:
The Stylistic Shift in Portrayals of Mary and her Adoration in Medieval Italy
Committee Appointment

Lucy Jones *Spring 2021*
Undergraduate Research Symposium Presentation
An Ecosemiotic Approach to Land Art
Faculty Mentor
First Place in Art, Advertising, Architecture and English Language Category

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

College Art Association
Midwest Art History Society
Society of North American Goldsmiths
American Craft Council
Museum of Art and Design, member
Cleveland Museum of Art, member